THE LION MING. Another year begun! Another year! And the worst of it was they liked me, think half as kindly and forgivingly of And if I could afford a drop of whis- these creatures. But their caresses, me as I do of you, I shall be satisfied." key in which to drink a teast, it should which had formerly pleased, sickened "Will you shake hands?" she said be, "May this be the last New Year ! me new. I shuddered from the touch shall ever live to see." I'm tired of of their painted lips, through which I took the good, tender little hand life. Life! This isn't life; its a living the funies of rum and whiskey Havor- in mine, and kissed it reverently. death. For twelve months I've been od their kisses. lying a maimed hideous, useless thing, I tried to get Ruth Hepburn, that she said. "I am going home early to-'most slways in pain, and earning just was her name, to come and see us per- morrow morning," enough to keep my miserable body form. I thought maybe she'd think "I shall never see you again," I from being put decently under the differently of me if she saw me with cried; "will you-will you pray for me churchyard mould. And little more my lions and heard the people cheer-sometimes?" than a year ago I was a strong, handing me. But she was shocked and some, hearty fellow, the pride of our horrified at the very idea. She had one who believed so little in prayer; traveling company, the Lion King. never been inside a theatre or circus but she was so pure, so good, there was in her life, and thought ours an unnothing else t could ask of her. and shiver when I unbarred the door godly calling. But yet I never dreamt and walked into the lien's eage! And of the horror she had of such as me taken an interest in," she answered. how the great beasts would crouch till one evening. We'd been meeting and look at me like dogs that knew like this for about ten days, she talktheir master! And how some of the ing in her pious, modest way of seri-women 'ud squeak with fright! God! ous things, and I thinking how genthink. The band had struck up the there's not a mouse so faint-hearted as the and sweet she was. I never meant tune they always played for my perto be afraid of me now, I haven't fire to frighten her; but I broke in on her formance; the men were dragging innerve to put my head down on a cat lecture with my own story. I told her to the ring the cage of lions. I had as once I used to on those lions, and I I loved her, and if she'd marry me I'd only a minute to tumble into my west Main Street, could force open their jaws and hold make her a good husband, and maybe tights and spangles. Then I was facmy hand between them without my in time I'd go in for religiou and such ing that vast crowd, hearing nothing, pulses going one beat the faster. We like. Well, she turned from me with seeing nothing but one sweet face, and eral Merchandise Brokers. were a tolerably good company, taking such a look of terror, of losthing, I the low "May God bless you!" I enus all round. I suppose there'll never might have been proposing to her to tered the cage with tears in my eyes. be anything more done in the way of go direct to hell. - HIT ELEVAN. horsemanship than there has been in these years past. There's bound to be the jumping over banners and through never, never talk to you again. I did ing? Great Heaven! I was soon repaper hoops, and the eleverest equestriene can't make her trained steed our women were active and good-look- her hand. "I don't believe you right- dull roar, and then-I remember ing, and our clowns funny, and we ly know what I am saying to you." nothing else. They say I pulled my were mostly young and enjoyed our now as if it must be some other chap and never paused till she was far out their iron frames had crushed me be-I'm talking about; as if it couldn't of our reach. I'm talking about; as if it couldn't ever have been me that cared for so My blood was up then. I felt on was dragged out alive, but that was many things—the smell of the saw- fire, being repulsed in this fashion by all. Whether the beasts remembered dust, the cheers of the people, a drink a slip of a girl I could have crushed and resented my actions at the last with a jolly companion, a kiss from a in my two hands. I took a draught performance, or whether they took pretty woman. Of course, people will of brandy before I went on to perform, their cue from my fistless, self-absorbed say I brought my fate on myself, that and I said, as I flung myself into the air, I cannot tell. My career as lion I'd no right to try to control those lion's cage, "Let the brutes do their king was over from that night. When savage beasts and think I could be worst, tear me to pieces if they like. I recovered consciousness I was in a hospital. My comrades had been often," folk said, as folk do say-stupid

It was just a year ago that we were down in S ___, a town after our own said to me: hearts, where we were always welcome and always sure of good houses. One formance soon, Jim, if you take to to suffer much longer. Last night morning, we had made the circuit of drinking." the town in grand style, and were returning up the country road to where our tent was pitched, when our caval- and unhappy. Sometimes I thought but it makes me think the end is nigh. cade was met by a young girl, who, af- I'd go to the little Methodist chapel And another fancy I have is that just This property is in close preximity to ter just one glance at us, cast her eyes on the chance of seeing her, but I at the last, as my eyes are closing for the depots and business part of the on the ground and raised them no hadn't the courage. It was so long ever, I shall see her face, and hear her town. For particulars, call on or more. We were so used to admiration since I had been in a place of worship say once more, as she said that night, address and interest that this struck us all of that I thought all the people would "May God bles you!" a heap, and, as the girl was very pret- know that I hadn't come to pray, but ty, each of us as we passed addressed to see my girl. her with some joke, more or less witty. Boxing night was a great time for mostly less, and even a little broad, us. We felt sure of a full house then, but she took no notice.

but we had almost forgotten it, when about listlessly, for my performance branch of mankind, it is hard to tell the next night, as we were having was the last thing in the programme, whither we are drifting on the great glasses round before turning in, one and I didn't care much to see the oth- ocean of uncertainty. A firm of rubof the women broke out with an oath: ers, though they'd each got some new ber manufacturers in New York ad-

ed yesterday? She had the impushoulder. dence to speak to me in the street today, lectured me, found fault with my wants to speak to you," he says. way of life, and begged me to reform and seek God before it was too late. Me! What do you think of that, mates?" And the speaker, a bold, black-eyed woman, known on the posters as Madame Barbara, and amongst open hand and laughed noisily.

From that day each had a similar experience to relate. Each had been visited the sick and sorrowful, and to go without asking your forgive- man for her wraps, the wrecked felectured in her pretty; homely fashion, ness. and once I was able to save her from she went on more pleadingly: ity combin't penetrate. Often when I with me."

I was reckless, mad. But, strange obliged to leave the town to pursue things a thousand times, and if they to say, the lions were more submissive their wanderings, but they had colare wrong 999 times and right once, than ever that night. I suppose it lected for me a sum of money which they think how elever they are. But was the force of my passion gave me put me out of the reach of present want. W. they were wrong about me, although extra power over them, for they had A year has passed since then. I I'm a maimed, scarred, wretched crip- never been so completely under my have dragged on a weary, painful expie now. I knew my work. I could control. I made them tumble and istence, shunning former friends and master the lions. It wasn't my fault, play like kittens; and when, at the acquaintances, picking up a living and it wasn't the beasts' fault that I lost last, I fired off my pistol to rouse and somehow. I have never seen Ruth LIFE & FIRE INSURANCE AGENTS my power over them once; it was the irritate them, instead of escaping again. Heaven grant she knew nothfault of a woman-God bless her-the quickly under cover of the smoke, I ing of my fate. But I'm most sure she sweetest and tenderest creature that walked leisurely to the door, unfasten- did not, or in her gentle goodness she Painless Eve Water ever breathed. God bless her whereved it, and gave the animals a parting would have come to me. I think it's er she is! and grant she may never nod of triumph ere I closed it behind only her memory that has made me know what's happened to me through | me.

dy made me so daring, and the boss cause if there's another world I

and so we had-packed; people stand- already sufficiently successful efforts The incident amused us at the time, ingreverywhere. I was mooning toward, deceiving the bifurcated "Do you remember that mealy-faced act or trick to go through, when one vertise what they describe as their girl who wouldn't notice us as we pass of the clowns touched me on the

> said testily, for he was fond of "selling" better touch the subject lightly bea fellow, and I fancied he guessed ex- fore our religious editor files an inactly what was the matter with me. junction,

"It's true, no larks; go mid see for yourself." And he sprang into the us as Bab, smote her breast with her ring with a shout and tumble, head trivance of this sort that was the mat-

vass passage, dimly lighted by one fee- ing. She was waltzing around the addressed by the gentle-faced Metho- ble oil lamp, half-laughing to myself room, fordly clasped to the manly dist, and exhorted with good words, to think how easily I could be gulled, breast of a well known society man Some were angry; some treated the But sure enough, when I opened the when in one of the convolutions of the affair as a good joke, and, pretending door, there, in the dark and cold, glide he pressed her elastic form rathto be much impressed, sang psalms stood the girl who was never out of er more warmly than usual against

tunes with serious words. When my "I wanted to see you," she began diown turn came I didn't laugh or scoff- rectly, before I was sufficiently recov- "I wonder what makes the gas hiss The girl was so young, so pretty, so ered from my surprise to speak, "to so this evening?" said the young man carnest in her wish to do good, that I tell you how sorry I am for the way I glancing at the chandelier. listened with hearty respect. She told treated you. I was thinking of it all The lady gave a sudden glance me she was only in 8- on a visit; the time in church yesterday, for what at her corsage, turned deadly pule that her people lived in a quiet village right has a sinner like me to despise and pressed still closer to her partin Kent, and she did not like the noi- any one of my fellow-beings. I've ner. sy town of S ..., with its drinking and been trying to meet you to tell you "Mr. Diffey," she whispered, hur smoking, its Sabbath-breaking and this, and ask you to forgive me, but as riedly, "just see if we can't waltz out vain indusements. She was trying to I did not see you anywhere I was of that door onto the veranda. It is so do what good lay in her power, as she obliged to come here, where I knew warm here." always tried, wherever she might be. you'd be at this time; for I'm going She read and talked to the work-girls, away to-morrow, and I couldn't bear then sending the perplexed young

those whose way of life did not please | She spoke in a hurried way, and her before she had entirely collapsed. her. We net often and talked. I cheek was flushed and her eyes moist This touching little incident teach used to look out for her in the places with tears. I didn't answer; I couldn't, es us never to despair in the hour of where I knew she was likely to be; I suppose she thought I was sulky, for danger and misfortune, and that- How to save money in buying them.

gry at her interference. But coarse myself, I'm sure you would forgive me. and things. words didn't seem to burt her as you How can I expect God to love me, might have thought they would one when I spurp in such a fashion the

went amongst our people after leaving "Angry!" I tried to speak calmly, some one else's sister.

her, I turned with disgust from the but I felt something in my throat that women's bold faces and free manners. threatened to choke me, "If you

"Thank you so much. Good bye,"

"I always pray for those I have "May God bless you!"

And then she was gone.

I forgot where I was. I could have "How can you say such dreadful sat down there among those savage things to me?" she burst out. "I can beasts and gone on dreaming. Dreamnot think you would have insulted called to my senses. I saw the eyes of the lions red, flaming, blazing; saw dance on less than two legs. Well, "Insult you!" I cried, trying to take them crouch for a spring, heard one GEN'L. But she shrank from me as if I had self together, slashed my whip, tried MILLIGAN COLLEGE. - TENN strolling life; and enjoyment of one's been some foul beast, and crying, "Oh, to use my pistol, but with no avail. I business goes far to making the on- don't, don't touch me!" turned and was in the grasp of the brutes, their lookers enjoy it too. It seems to me fled as fast as her feet would carry her, claws had lacerated and di-figured me

bear my sufferings when I've been My mates thought it was the bran- tempted to put an end to them, bewouldn't give up the chance of seeing "There'll be an end to your lion per- her again. I don't believe I shall have when the bells were chiming I seemed That was Christmas Eve. The next to hear her voice, singing of joy and REAL ESTATE CO. day I wandered about, feeling restless peace. Of course, it was only fancy,

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However, what we started out to say was that it must have been some conover heels, for it was his turn to go on. ter with a lady who attended a party I walked away down the little can- on Van Ness avenue the other eventhrough their noses and ribald song my thoughts now, Ruth Hepburn. the pin that secured his buttonhole

This was successfully done, and

male safely gained the dressing-room

that presence of mind is often a good some rough, rude folk, who were and "If you knew now I have reproached substitute for absence of body and-

When a young man walks with so refined and gentle. Her modesty love of one of His creatures? Oh, girl as though he was afraid some one and purity were so perfect that they I was horribly rude and ungracious, would see him, the girl is his sister, formed a shield through which brutal- and I don't wonder you are angry If he walks so close to her as to nearly crowd her against the fence, she is

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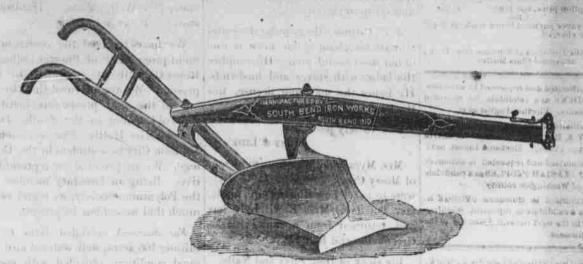
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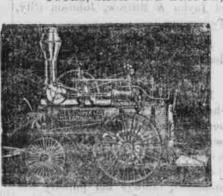
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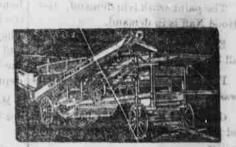
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